

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Harmans Survey District Inventory Number: AA-1075
Address: Old Dorsey Road and Old Coaling Road City: Harmans Zip Code: 21077
County: Anne Arundel USGS Topographic Map: Relay
Owner: Various Is the property being evaluated a district? X yes
Tax Parcel Number: n/a Tax Map Number: n/a Tax Account ID Number: n/a
Project: Baltimore-Washington Maglev Amtrak Agency: MTA
Site visit by MHT staff: X no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes X no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes Name of District: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐ yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes X no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Anne Arundel County History Notes (April 1997, July 1997, January 1998, July 1998, October 1998, and July 2001).

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Harmans Survey District is a small, late-nineteenth-century railroad village comprised of about twenty-five buildings oriented along Old Dorsey Road, Old Coaling Road and the railroad tracks. About fifteen buildings in Harmans appear to date from the late nineteenth century and represent a variety of common two-story folk housing types of the period, including I-houses with central front gables and narrow, two-bay, gable-front residences. The buildings on Old Dorsey Road are spaced close together, reflecting the road's former status as the commercial hub of Harmans. The widely spaced dwellings along Old Coaling Road allowed occupants to plant large gardens, construct various outbuildings, and raise animals such as cows, chickens, and pigs. At least five dwellings in Harmans are oriented facing east toward the railroad tracks that run only a few yards from their front doors.

The original settlement in the vicinity of present-day Harmans was located less than a mile west of the survey district, at the crossroads of Dorsey Road and Ridge Road in an area now called Shipley Corner after a prominent local family whose farms were located there. The community had a church, a school, and a blacksmith shop. When the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad was constructed in 1872, it bisected the farmland of Rezin Harman, a member of the Harman family that had first settled in the area around 1775. Harman's land lay east of the Shipley properties, and his family was prominent in the community. A new rail stop at the intersection of the tracks with Dorsey Road was immediately named Harman's Station. The small town that grew up

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended X
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None
MHT Comments

Andrew Lewis
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, NR Program

10/03/02
Date

10/17/02
Date

Harmans Survey District

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around it was known by the same name into the twentieth century, at which time the name was shortened to Harmans.

The railroad ushered in a new era of commercial enterprise and easy access to the markets of Baltimore and Washington, which was highly beneficial to local truck farmers. A depot was built on the east side of the railroad tracks just south of the intersection with Old Dorsey Road, and within a decade, a small village had taken shape around this intersection. Though a few houses were initially built on the east side of the tracks, many more were built on the west side along Old Dorsey Road and Old Coaling Road. A blacksmith shop, general store, and union hall were in place along Old Dorsey Road west of the tracks by 1890, forming the village's commercial core. A pigment mill was built on the north side of Old Dorsey Road near Stony Run. Most residents of Harmans, and the surrounding area attended Wesley Grove United Methodist Church on Dorsey Road west of the village near Shipley Corner. The local school remained at Shipley Corner until a new two-room schoolhouse was constructed on the north side of Old Dorsey Road between 1905 and 1910. This building was used by village children until 1929, when it closed and was converted to housing, with local children attending a consolidated school in Jessup instead.

In the 1930s, to accommodate increasing vehicular traffic, the Dorsey Road grade crossing was closed and a new bypass built over the railroad tracks. The former depot area on the east side became an industrial site, rail service ceased, and the businesses on the west side slowly dwindled in the face of modern times. The village blacksmith remained in business into the 1950s, and the Harman family's general store survived until 1967, when it was downsized to a convenience market. The Junior Order of American Mechanics Hall was closed and converted to housing in 1974, at which time the upper level's brick façade and Gothic south windows were covered over with synthetic siding. The village post office continued operations until 1990, when it was closed for safety reasons. Modern businesses, including landscaping and light industrial operations, have moved into former homes and historic business locations in the northern part of the village. Within the last quarter-century, a Baltimore Gas and Electric substation was constructed at the top of Old Coaling Road at its intersection with Old Dorsey Road. On the east side of town, beyond Telegraph Road, a newer section of Harmans was built as a suburban community on former farmland.

Although at least two dwellings, including the old Post Office, retain rich architectural details, the vast majority of Harmans's buildings are clad in new synthetic siding and have replacement windows and doors. Along Old Dorsey Road, the Junior Order Hall was converted to housing, while a few former residences were converted for commercial use. These conversions altered the appearance of the buildings and streetscape considerably. Additionally, a number of dwellings in town have been rezoned for light industrial use and are now surrounded by chain-link fencing, equipment yards, and modern structures. Some newer homes and commercial buildings were constructed in various places throughout the village, replacing older buildings or vacant lots. Finally, the BG&E substation, located in the center of the town, creates a massive intrusion in the historic setting. Because of these intrusions, the town does not appear to retain sufficient historic integrity for qualify for listing as a district in the National Register of Historic Places.

One building, the former Harmans Post Office at 1225 Old Dorsey Road (AA-2298), is recommended eligible for individual listing. This building, originally built in 1875 by the Shipley family, served as the Harman family home, general store, and the village post office for over 75 years, and retains good historic integrity.

Prepared by: Kate Farnham, John Milner AssociatesDate Prepared: 9/27/2002



AA 1075

Old Dorsey Road

Harmans, MD

Harmans Survey District

Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien

July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

Overview of Old Dorsey Rd
from SE

1 of 17



AA 1075

1232 & 1236 Old Dorsey Rd
Harmans, MD

Harmans Survey Dist.
Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien
July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

Overview of Old Dorsey Rd
from South

2 of 17



AA-1075

1236 OLD DORSEY ROAD, HARMANS 21077

HARMANS SURVEY DISTRICT

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MD

ELIZABETH O'BRIEN

JULY 18, 2002

MD SHPD

From S

3 of 17



AA 1095

1226 Old Dorsey Rd

Harmans 21077

Harmans Survey District

Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien

July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

From S - Former Junior Order Hall

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AA 1045

Old Dorsey Rd
Harmans

Harmans Survey Dist.
Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien

July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

View toward Old Dorsey Rd.
electric station in foreground
from South 5 of 17



AA 1075

1229 Old Dorsey Rd

Harmans 21077

Harmans Survey District

Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien

July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

From NE

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AA 1075

7519 Old Coaling Rd
Harmans 21077

Harmans Survey Dist
Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien

July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

From W

7 of 17



AA 1075

7520 Old Coaling Rd

Harmans 21077

Harmans Survey District

Anne Arundel Co., MD

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July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

From SE

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AA 1075

7524 Old Coaling Rd

Harmans 21077

Harmans Survey Dist.

Anne Arundel Co, MD

Elizabeth O'Brien

July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

From E

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SCOTT A. DUNCAN INC.
TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONTRACTOR

OFFICE

1018 Long Point Rd.
GRASONVILLE, MD 21638
410-827-7172

SHOP

7525 Old Coaling Rd.
HARMANS, MD 21077
410-761-2515

In Case of EMERGENCY or DELIVERY Please Call Office



AA 1075

7525 Old Coaling Rd
Harman's

Harman's Survey Dist.
Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien
July 19, 2002
MD SHPO

rear view of dwelling converted
to commercial use.

From northwest 10 of 17



AA 1075

7528 Old Coaling Rd

Harmans 21077

Harmans Survey Dist.

Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien

July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

From NE

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AA1045

7532 Old Coaling Rd

Harmans 21074

Harmans Survey Dist.

Anne Arundel Co., MD

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MD SHPO

From NE

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AA 1075

7536 Old Coaling Rd.

Harmans 21077

Harmans Survey Dist.

Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien

July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

From SE

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AA 1075

7538 + 7536 Old Coaling Rd
Harmans 21077

Harmans Survey Dist.

Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien

July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

From SE

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AA1075

7537 Old Coaling Rd
Harmans 21077

Harmans Survey Dist.
Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien

July 19, 2002

MD SHPo

From NW

15 of 17



AA 1075

7537 Old Coalving Rd
Harmans 21079

Harmans Survey Dist.
Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien

July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

From E

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AA 1075

7537 Old Coalring Rd

Harmans 21077

Harmans Survey Dist.

Anne Arundel Co, MD

Elizabeth O'Brien

July 19, 2002

MD SHPo

From SW

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